School (NOS) and the establishment of State Open Schools in some of the States during the last few years are indicative of the growing popularity of Open Schooling in India.

(b) and (c) During the IX Plan Period, the NOs plans to provide professional and technical support to States in establishing and developing State Open Schools.

Criteria for Opening New Universities

1939. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Universities set up in the country duriang 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the criteria on the basis of which representations for opening new universities are acted upon; and

(c) whether the need for adequate inter-regional balance in the sphere of higher education is kept in mind at the time of granting sanctions to new universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) According to the avilable information, 2 new Unviersities were set up during 1995-96 and 6 in 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Central Universities are set up by Acts of Parliament and State Universities by Acts of State Legislatures. UGC has framed guidelines for establishment of new Unviersities which though not specifically providing for maintenance of inter-regional balance, however, envisage a detailed survey of the avilability of facilities for Higher Education within the proposed jurisdiction of the university concerned.

Relaxation in Cut-Off Marks

1940. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for relaxation in percentage of marks/cut-off marks set for admission to different streams in Kandriya Vidyalayas for wards of employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. For admission in Science and Commerce streams in Kendriya Vidyalayas the cut off marks is the same for all students i.e. 50% and 45% in aggregate respectively, in order to maintain academic standards.

Appointment of Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia

1941. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the appointment of a retired Army General as Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia by neglecting the preservation of democratic and academic values in higher education and its law disturbing implication on the running of University; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The President of India, as Visitor of Jamia Millia Islamia, has appointed the Vice Chancellor of the University in accordance with the provisions of the Act and

the Statutes of the University, which do not fetter the discretion of the Visitor and restrict his choice in any manner.

Elementary Education in Gujarat

1942. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of children enrolled during the last three years, in the age group of 6 to 14 years in Gujarat for elementary education and what was the percentage of children enrolled in this age group in the State during the period, year-wise;

(b) the total number of primary schools functioning in the State to provide elementary education;

(c) whether these schools are enough to cater to the needs of all the children of the age group in the State;

(d) if not, whether Government propose to provide Central funds for opening more primary schools in Gujarat; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) According to the avilable information the total number of children enrolled in primary and upper primary classes and the Gross Enrolment Ratio during the last three years in Gujarat is as follows:

Year	Total Enrolment	Gross enrolment ratio	
		Primary	Upper Primary
1993-94	79,78,149	119.9	69.6
1994-95	81,49,088	123.4	63.9
1995-96	83,19,772	131.4	71.6

(b) and (c) According to information furnished by Government of Gujarat the number of primary schools functioning in the State is 33,119. The State Government is of the view that these schools are enough to cater to the needs of the children of this age group in the state.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Destruction of Monuments by Quarrying

1943. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that use of explosive for sandstone quarrying is destroying various National monuments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Taj Mahal and the Fatehpur Sikri are dying because of such acts and

(c) what steps Archaeological Survey of India is taking to save our National monuments and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) No specific damage to centrally protected monuments has been established as a result of explosives used for sandstone quarrying.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Archaeological Survey of India has brought to the notice of the concerned authorities in the States to take necessary measures to stop quarrying in the vicinity of centrally protected monuments. Relevant notifications in this regards have been brought to the notice of the State Governments.

Review of Examination System

1944. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to change/review the present day education